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5/21/02PATENT
Attorney Docket No. EXT-048

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MAY 20 2002

APPLICANT(S): Shuber
SERIAL NO.: 09/755,004
FILING DATE: January 5, 2001
TITLE: Methods for Detecting, Monitoring, or Grading an *H. pylori* Infection

GROUP NO.: 1637

EXAMINER: S. Chunduru

TECH CENTER 1600/2900

Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

AMENDMENT AND RESPONSE

Sir:

The Office Action of February 11, 2002, rejected claims 1-9, 17 and 18, and objected to claim 18. Reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejections is respectfully requested in view of the following amendments and remarks.

AMENDMENT

Please cancel claims 10-16 without prejudice to Applicant's right to pursue the subject matter of these claims in this application and in related applications.

Please amend claims 1-3, 5, 8, 9, and 18 to read as follows:

1. (Amended) A method for detecting a *Helicobacter pylori* infection, the method comprising the steps of:

detecting a *Helicobacter pylori* nucleic acid present in a patient stool sample and having a length exceeding a reference length; and

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